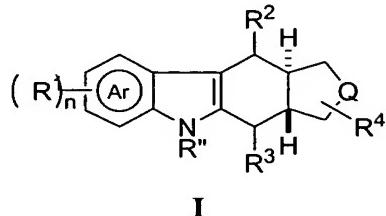


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A compound having the formula (I):



5 wherein



7 represents a single or fused aryl or heteroaryl ring;

8 Q is -N(R)- or -N(R)-(C₁-C₃)alkylene-;

9 R is

10 L¹ is a bond, (C₁-C₄)alkylene, (C₁-C₄)alkylenoxy and (C₁-C₄)alkylenamino;

11 L² is a bond, (C₁-C₄)alkylene, (C₂-C₄)alkenylene, (C₂-C₄)alkynylene, (C₁-C₄)alkylenoxy or (C₁-C₄)alkylenamino;

12 R'' is hydrogen or (C₁-C₈)alkyl;

13 each R¹ is independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OR⁵, -SR⁵, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -NO₂, -NR⁵R⁶, -C(O)R⁵, -CO₂R⁵, -C(O)NR⁵R⁶, -N(R⁶)C(O)R⁵, -N(R⁶)CO₂R⁵, -N(R⁷)C(O)NR⁵R⁶, -S(O)_mNR⁵R⁶, -S(O)_mR⁵, -CN and -N(R⁶)S(O)_mR⁵;

14 R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OR⁸, -SR⁸, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -NO₂, -NR⁸R⁹, =O, -C(O)R⁸, -CO₂R⁸, -C(O)NR⁸R⁹, -N(R⁹)C(O)R⁸, -N(R⁹)CO₂R⁸, -N(R¹⁰)C(O)NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_mNR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_mR⁸, -CN and -N(R⁹)S(O)_mR⁸;

15 R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -OR¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -CO₂R¹¹, -C(O)NR¹¹R¹², -CN, (C₁-C₄)alkyl and aryl;

16 X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-

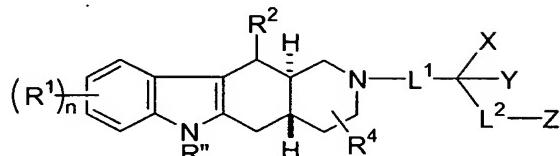
26 C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, -CO₂R¹³ and -C(O)NR¹³R¹⁴;
27 optionally, X and Y may be combined to form a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-
28 membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms independently selected from the
29 group consisting of N, O and S;
30 Z is selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁵, -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁵R¹⁸,
31 -C(O)R¹⁵, -CO₂R¹⁵, -R¹⁸, -C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁸, -SO₂NR¹⁵R¹⁶,
32 -SO₂NR¹⁵R¹⁸, -NR¹⁶SO₂R¹⁵, -N(R¹⁵)N(R¹⁶)SO₂R¹⁷, -C(O)N(R¹⁶)OR¹⁵, hydroxy(C₁-
33 C₈)alkyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, heteroaryl, -C(=NOR¹⁵)NR¹⁶R¹⁷, -C(R¹⁶)=NOR¹⁵,
34 -NR¹⁶(OR¹⁵), -C(O)NR¹⁷C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁷C(O)NR¹⁶C(O)R¹⁵ and
35 -NR¹⁷C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁶;
36 R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are
37 independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₂-
38 C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, cyclo(C₃-C₆)alkyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, hetero(C₁-C₄)alkyl,
39 cyclohetero(C₃-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl;
40 R¹⁸ is a 5- or 6-membered ring containing from 0 to 4 heteroatoms
41 selected from the group consisting of N, O and S (*e.g.* tetrazole);
42 optionally, when two R groups selected from the group consisting of R⁵,
43 R⁶, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are attached to the same nitrogen atom,
44 the R groups may be combined to form a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring containing
45 the nitrogen atom and from 0 to 2 additional heteroatoms selected from the group
46 consisting of N, O and S;
47 the subscript m is 1 or 2; and
48 the subscript n is 0, 1 or 2.

49 2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein  represents a benzene ring.
50 3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein Q is -N(R)-.
51 4. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R³ is hydrogen or =O.

52 5. The compound of Claim 1 wherein  represents a benzene ring,
53 R" is hydrogen and R³ is hydrogen.

54

6. A compound having the formula (II):



55

II

57 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate or prodrug thereof, wherein

58 L¹ is a bond, (C₁-C₄)alkylene, (C₁-C₄)alkylenoxy or (C₁-
59 C₄)alkylenamino;

60 L² is a bond, (C₁-C₄)alkylene, (C₂-C₄)alkenylene, (C₂-C₄)alkynylene,
61 (C₁-C₄)alkylenoxy or (C₁-C₄)alkylenamino;

62 R'' is hydrogen or (C₁-C₈)alkyl;

63 each R¹ is independently selected from the group consisting of halogen,
64 (C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OR⁵, -SR⁵,
65 fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -NO₂, -NR⁵R⁶, -C(O)R⁵, -CO₂R⁵, -
66 C(O)NR⁵R⁶, -N(R⁶)C(O)R⁵, -N(R⁶)CO₂R⁵, -N(R⁷)C(O)NR⁵R⁶, -S(O)_mNR⁵R⁶, -
67 S(O)_mR⁵, -CN and -N(R⁶)S(O)_mR⁵;

68 R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-
69 C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -OR⁸, -SR⁸, fluoro(C₁-
70 C₄)alkoxy, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -NO₂, -NR⁸R⁹, =O, -C(O)R⁸, -CO₂R⁸, -C(O)NR⁸R⁹, -
71 N(R⁹)C(O)R⁸, -N(R⁹)CO₂R⁸, -N(R¹⁰)C(O)NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_mNR⁸R⁹, -S(O)_mR⁸, -CN and -
72 N(R⁹)S(O)_mR⁸;

73 R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -OR¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -
74 CO₂R¹¹, -C(O)NR¹¹R¹², -CN, (C₁-C₄)alkyl and aryl;

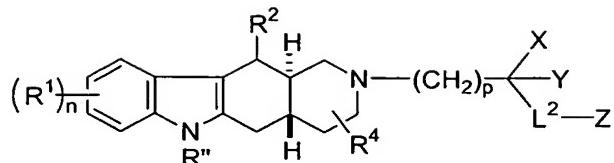
75 X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-
76 C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₈)alkenyl, (C₂-C₈)alkynyl, -CO₂R¹³ and -C(O)NR¹³R¹⁴;

77 optionally, X and Y may be combined to form a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-
78 membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting
79 of N, O and S;

80 Z is selected from the group consisting of -OR¹⁵, -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -CO₂R¹⁵, -R¹⁸,
81 -C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁸, -SO₂NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -SO₂NR¹⁵R¹⁸, -NR¹⁶SO₂R¹⁵,
82 -N(R¹⁵)N(R¹⁶)SO₂R¹⁷, -C(O)N(R¹⁶)OR¹⁵, fluoro(C₁-C₄)alkyl, heteroaryl,
83 -C(=NOR¹⁵)NR¹⁶R¹⁷, -C(R¹⁶)=NOR¹⁵, -NR¹⁶(OR¹⁵), -C(O)NR¹⁷C(O)NR¹⁵R¹⁶,

84 $-\text{NR}^{17}\text{C(O)NR}^{16}\text{C(O)R}^{15}$ and $-\text{NR}^{17}\text{C(O)NR}^{15}\text{R}^{16}$,
85 $\text{R}^5, \text{R}^6, \text{R}^7, \text{R}^8, \text{R}^9, \text{R}^{10}, \text{R}^{11}, \text{R}^{12}, \text{R}^{13}, \text{R}^{14}, \text{R}^{15}, \text{R}^{16}$ and R^{17} are
86 independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$)alkyl, ($\text{C}_2\text{-}$
87 C_8)alkenyl, ($\text{C}_2\text{-C}_8$)alkynyl, fluoro($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkyl, hetero($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkyl, aryl and aryl($\text{C}_1\text{-}$
88 C_4)alkyl;
89 R^{18} is a 5- or 6-membered ring containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms
90 selected from the group consisting of N, O and S;
91 optionally, when two R groups selected from the group consisting of R^5 ,
92 $\text{R}^6, \text{R}^7, \text{R}^8, \text{R}^9, \text{R}^{10}, \text{R}^{11}, \text{R}^{12}, \text{R}^{13}, \text{R}^{14}, \text{R}^{15}, \text{R}^{16}, \text{R}^{17}$ and R^{18} are attached to the same
93 nitrogen atom, the R groups may be combined to form a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered
94 ring containing the nitrogen atom and from 0 to 2 additional heteroatoms selected from
95 the group consisting of N, O and S;
96 the subscript m is 1 or 2; and
97 the subscript n is 0, 1 or 2.

- 1 7. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.
- 1 8. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R'' is hydrogen.
- 1 9. The compound of Claim 8, wherein R^2 is ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkyl or aryl.
- 1 10. The compound of Claim 9, wherein R^1 is independently selected
2 from the group consisting of halogen, ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkyl, fluoro($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkyl, $-\text{OR}^5$,
3 fluoro($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkoxy, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^5$, $-\text{S(O)}_m\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$, $-\text{S(O)}_m\text{R}^5$ and $-\text{CN}$.
- 1 11. The compound of Claim 10, wherein R^1 is halogen or fluoro($\text{C}_1\text{-}$
2 C_4)alkyl.
- 1 12. The compound of Claim 10, wherein n is 0 or 1.
- 1 13. The compound of Claim 12, wherein L^1 is ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$)alkylene.
- 1 14. The compound of Claim 13, having the formula (III):



III

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4 wherein the subscript p is an integer of from 1 to 4.

1 **15.** The compound of Claim 13, wherein p is 1, 2 or 3.

1 **16.** The compound of Claim 15, wherein L² is a bond.

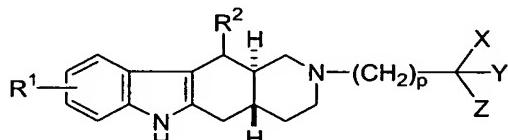
1 **17.** The compound of Claim 16, wherein Z is -CO₂R¹⁵ or -CO₂NR¹⁵R¹⁶.

1 **18.** The compound of Claim 15, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from
3 the group consisting of O, N and S.

1 **19.** The compound of Claim 18, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 5- or 6-membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group
3 consisting of O, N and S.

1 **20.** The compound of Claim 19, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 5- or 6-membered ring containing 0 heteroatoms, 1 nitrogen atom or 1 oxygen atom.

1 **21.** The compound of Claim 6, having the formula (IV):



IV

2

3

4 wherein the subscript p is an integer of from 1 to 4.

1 **22.** The compound of Claim 21, wherein p is 1, 2 or 3.

1 **23.** The compound of Claim 22, wherein p is 2.

1 **24.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein Y is -CO₂H.

1 **25.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from
3 the group consisting of O, N and S.

1 **26.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 5- or 6-membered ring containing from 0 to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group
3 consisting of O, N and S.

1 **27.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 5- or 6-membered ring containing 0 heteroatoms, 1 nitrogen atom or 1 oxygen atom.

1 **28.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein X and Y are combined to form
2 a 5- or 6-membered ring containing 0 heteroatoms, 1 nitrogen atom or 1 oxygen atom
3 and Y is $\text{--CO}_2\text{H}$.

1 **29.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein R^2 is methyl.

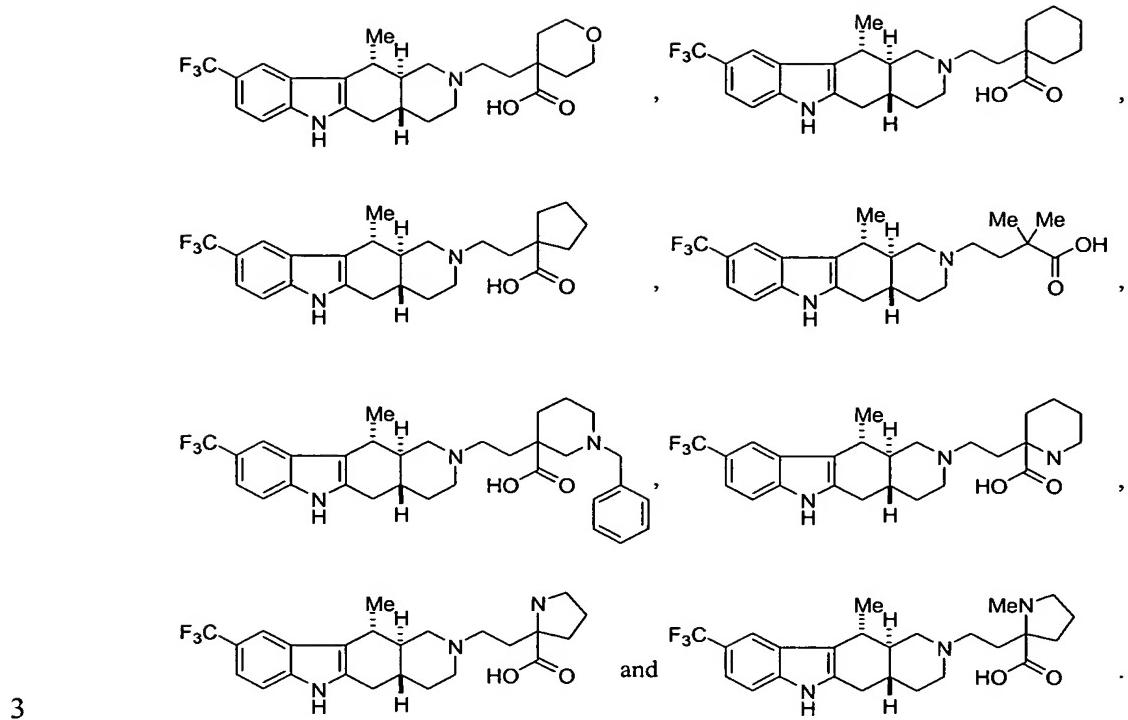
1 **30.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein R^1 is CF_3 .

1 **31.** The compound of Claim 30, wherein R^1 is 9-trifluoromethyl.

1 **32.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein R^1 is CF_3 and R^2 is methyl.

1 **33.** The compound of Claim 23, wherein R^1 is CF_3 , R^2 is methyl and Y
2 is $\text{--CO}_2\text{H}$.

1 **34.** The compound of Claim 33, wherein said compound is selected from
2 the group consisting of the group consisting of:



1 **35.** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically
2 acceptable carrier or excipient and a compound of any one of Claims 1-34.

1 **36.** A method for treating a condition or disorder is selected from the
2 group consisting of obesity, an eating disorder, an anxiety disorder and a mood
3 disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically
4 effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or 6.

1 **37.** The method of Claim 36, wherein said compound condition or
2 disorder is selected from the group consisting of obesity, anorexia nervosa, anxiety,
3 panic disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder and depression.

1 **38.** The method of Claim 36, wherein said compound is administered in
2 combination with an anti-obesity agent, an antidepressant or an anxiolytic agent.

1 **39.** The method of Claim 36, wherein said compound is administered
2 orally.

1 **40.** The method of Claim 36, wherein said compound is administered
2 parenterally.

1 **41.** The method of Claim 36, wherein said compound modulates MCHR.

1 **42.** A method for modifying eating behavior, comprising administering
2 to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim
3 1 or 6.

1 **43.** The method of Claim 42, wherein food intake is decreased.

1 **44.** The method of Claim 42, wherein food intake is increased.

1 **45.** A method for treating a condition or disorder mediated by MCHR,
2 comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount
3 of a compound of Claim 1 or 6.

1 **46.** The method of Claim 45, wherein said condition or disorder is
2 selected from the group consisting of obesity, an eating disorder, an anxiety disorder
3 and a mood disorder.

1 **47.** The method of Claim 46, wherein said eating disorder is anorexia
2 nervosa.

1 **48.** The method of Claim 46, wherein said anxiety disorder is selected
2 from the group consisting of anxiety, panic disorder and obsessive-compulsive
3 disorder.

1 **49.** The method of Claim 46, wherein said mood disorder is depression.

1 **50.** A method for modulating MCHR, comprising contacting a cell with
2 a compound of Claim 1 or 6.

1 **51.** The method of Claim 50, wherein said compound is an MCHR
2 antagonist.

1 **52.** The method of Claim 50, wherein said compound is an MCHR
2 agonist.